

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein the composite is formed from a melt that comprises one or more hydrophobic, nonionic polymers from the groups comprising poly(vinyl chloride) and/or copolymers, which comprise vinyl chloride and one or more nonionic monomers, and one or more hydrophilic polymers from the groups comprising polyethers, and optionally plasticizers from the groups comprising the esters of phthalic acid, the esters of trimellitic acid, the esters of phosphoric acid, the esters of citric acid, the esters of tartaric acid, the esters of malic acid, the esters of fatty acids, the esters of adipic acid, the esters of azelaic acid, the esters of sebacic acid, whereby the following are suspended in this melt: one or more antibiotic salts, which are sparingly soluble in water, from the groups comprising aminoglycoside antibiotics, lincosamide antibiotics, tetracycline antibiotics, quinolone antibiotics and chlorhexidine, and optionally an antibiotic, which is readily soluble in water, from the groups comprising aminoglycoside antibiotics, lincosamide antibiotics, and tetracycline antibiotics, and optionally one or more organic ancillary substances.

5. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein the quantity of hydrophilic polymer in the homogeneous polymer mixture amounts to between 0.1 and 60 percent by weight.

6. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein poly(ethylene glycol) with a number average molecular weight in the range from 120 gmol^{-1} to 35,000 gmol^{-1} is used as the polyether.

7. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein poly(propylene glycol) with a number average molecular weight in the range from 200 gmol^{-1} to 35,000 gmol^{-1} is used as the polyether.

8. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein poly(ethylene glycol) with a number average molecular weight in the range from 120 gmol^{-1} to 600 gmol^{-1} is used as the polyether.

9. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein vinyl chloride copolymers with number average molecular weights from 20,000 gmol^{-1} to 2,000,000 gmol^{-1} are used as the hydrophobic polymers, whereby these vinyl chloride copolymers are prepared from vinyl chloride and the following comonomers: vinylidene chloride, vinyl fluoride, vinyl acetate, acrylonitrile, aliphatic esters of acrylic acid, aromatic esters of

acrylic acid, aliphatic esters of methacrylic acid, aromatic esters of methacrylic acid, ethene, propene, butadiene, isoprene, 2-chlorobutadiene and isopropylene.

10. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein sulfonamides and/or antiphlogistic substances and/or anesthetic substances are used as the organic ancillary substances.

11. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the free-flowing suspension forms composites in the form of filaments as a result of spinning together with the evaporation of the cyclohexanone and/or tetrahydrofuran.

12. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the free-flowing suspension forms composites in the form of foils as a result of casting together with the evaporation of the cyclohexanone and/or tetrahydrofuran.

13. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the free-flowing suspension forms composites in the form of powders and granulated materials as a result of spraying together with the evaporation of the cyclohexanone and/or tetrahydrofuran.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, which comprises plastic tubes, plastic filaments, plastic foils, spherical plastic objects, roller-like plastic objects, or chain-like plastic objects coated with the composite.

16. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, which comprises catheters, tracheal cannulas, or tubes for intraperitoneal feeding coated with the composite.

17. (Withdrawn) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, which comprises implantable metal plates, metal nails, or metal screws coated with the composite.

18. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, which comprises medically usable shaped plastic objects, plastic foils, plastic filaments, metal plates, or metal pipes glued together or to a substrate with the composite.

19. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, which comprises antibiotic shaped objects selected from the group consisting of granulated plastic materials, plastic powders, resorbable glass powders, non-resorbable glass powders, or quartz powders binded with the composite.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) Method of using an antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 29, comprising applying the free-flowing suspension to the surface of plastics and/or metals via immersion, spraying, painting, brushing or rolling, and forming a composite in the form of a coating via the evaporation of the cyclohexanone.

22. (Withdrawn) Method of using an antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, comprising applying the composite in the form of a coating to medically usable plastic filaments, plastic foils, plastic tubes, plastic pouches, or plastic bottles.

23. (Withdrawn) Method of using an antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, comprising applying the composite in the form of a coating to spherical shaped objects, to roller-like shaped objects, or to chain-like shaped objects, whereby these comprise plastic and/or metal.

24. (Withdrawn) Method of using an antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, comprising applying the composite in the form of a coating to shaped objects, foils, or filaments comprising poly(methacrylic acid esters), poly(acrylic acid esters)

poly(methacrylic acid esters-co-acrylic acid esters), poly(vinyl chloride), poly(vinylidene chloride), silicone, polystyrene, or polycarbonate.

25. (Withdrawn) Method of using an antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, comprising applying the composite in the form of a coating to the surface of metals and/or plastics via sintering.

26.-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously Presented) An antibiotic polymer combination in the form of a composite, wherein said antibiotic polymer combination comprises:

- (a) one or more sparingly water-soluble salts of one or more antibiotics selected from the group consisting of aminoglycoside antibiotics, lincosamide antibiotics, tetracycline antibiotics, glycopeptide antibiotics, quinolone antibiotics and chlorhexidine; and
- (b) optionally one or more readily water-soluble antibiotics selected from the group consisting of readily water-soluble aminoglycoside antibiotics, readily water-soluble lincosamide antibiotics, readily water-soluble β -lactam antibiotics and readily water-soluble tetracycline antibiotics; and
- (c) optionally one or more organic ancillary substances;

suspended in:

- (d) a homogeneous polymer mixture comprising:
 - (i) one or more hydrophobic, nonionic polymers selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl)chloride, post-chlorinated poly(vinyl)chloride, poly(vinylidene chloride), poly(vinyl fluoride), poly(vinylidene fluoride) and copolymers formed by copolymerizing at least vinyl chloride and one or more nonionic monomers; and
 - (ii) one or more hydrophilic polyethers;

to form a composite.

29. (Currently Amended) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim [[2]] 28, wherein the composite has been formed by evaporation of cyclohexanone and/or tetrahydrofuran from a free-flowing suspension comprising:

- (a) one or more sparingly water-soluble salts of one or more antibiotics selected from the group consisting of aminoglycoside antibiotics, lincosamide antibiotics, tetracycline antibiotics, glycopeptide antibiotics, quinolone antibiotics and chlorhexidine; and
- (b) optionally one or more readily water-soluble antibiotics selected from the group consisting of readily water-soluble aminoglycoside antibiotics, readily water-soluble lincosamide antibiotics, readily water-soluble β -lactam antibiotics and readily water-soluble tetracycline antibiotics; and

- (c) optionally one or more organic ancillary substances;

suspended in:

- (d) a homogeneous polymer mixture comprising:
 - (i) one or more hydrophobic, nonionic polymers selected from the group consisting of poly(vinyl)chloride and copolymers formed by copolymerizing at least vinyl chloride and one or more nonionic monomers; and
 - (ii) one or more hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyethers;
 - (iii) cyclohexanone and/or tetrahydrofuran;
 - (iv) optionally one or more plasticizers selected from the group consisting of esters of phthalic acid, esters of trimellitic acid, esters of phosphoric acid, esters of adipic acid, esters of azelaic acid, esters of sebacic acid.

30. (Previously Presented) Antibiotic polymer combination in accordance with Claim 28, wherein the composite is in the form of a shaped object, a coating or a foil.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.